Applicant : Eveland, et al.
Serial No. : 10/728,631
Filed : December 5, 2003
Page : 6 of 16

Attorney's Docket No.: 16491-009002

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method for controlling access to a medical monitoring system, the method comprising:

    receiving information indicating that a remote monitoring device seeks access to a monitoring service hosted by a central unit, the remote monitoring device comprising a patient-portable device configured to monitor one or more physiological aspects of a patient;

    determining whether the remote monitoring device is authorized to access the monitoring service, the determination being based at least in part on authorization data received from a third-party source[[,]] ; and

    based on a result of the determination, selectively issuing an activation signal to the remote monitoring device.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim1 claim 1 wherein the determination of whether the remote monitoring device is authorized to access the monitoring service is performed cooperatively between the remote device and the central unit.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the determination of whether the remote monitoring device is authorized to access the monitoring service comprises one or both of (i) performing a format check on access data entered into the remote monitoring device and (ii) comparing the entered access data against the third-party authorization data.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising maintaining at the central unit a local database of third-party authorization data to be used in the determination of whether the remote monitoring device is authorized to access the monitoring service.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising updating the local third-party authorization database.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein updating of the local third-party authorization database occurs periodically or based on a predetermined event or a combination of both.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein selectively issuing the activation signal to the remote monitoring device based on a result of the determination comprises issuing the activation signal if the remote monitoring device is determined to be authorized to access the medical monitoring service and refraining from issuing an activation signal if the remote monitoring device is determined to be unauthorized to access the medical monitoring service.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the remote monitoring device communicates with the central unit through one or more communications links including either or both of a wired communication link and a wireless communication link.

10. (Currently Amended) A medical monitoring system centered at a central node, the medical monitoring system comprising:

one or more communications links configured to facilitate communications with a plurality of patient-portable remote monitoring devices and one or more third-party authorization sources, the remote monitoring devices being configured to monitor one or more physiological aspects of a patient;

at least one programmable processor configured to perform operations comprising:

host a medical monitoring service, the medical monitoring service being implemented at least in part by one or more software processes;

receive information indicating that a remote monitoring device seeks access to the medical monitoring service hosted at the central node;

Applicant : Eveland, et al.
Serial No. : 10/728,631
Filed : December 5, 2003
Page : 8 of 16

Attorney's Docket No.: 16491-009002

determine, based at least in part on authorization data received from a third-party

authorization source, whether the remote monitoring device is authorized to

access the monitoring service₋ ; and

based on a result of the determination, selectively issue an activation signal to the

remote monitoring device.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the programmable processor is further configured to maintain at the central node a local database of third-party authorization data to be used in the determination of whether the remote monitoring device is authorized to access the monitoring service.

13. (Original) The system of claim 10 further comprising a local database of third-party authorization data and wherein the programmable processor further is configured to update the local authorization database based on data received from the one or more third-party authorization sources.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the programmable processor is further configured to determine whether the remote monitoring device is authorized to access the monitoring service by one or both of (i) performing a format check on access data entered into the remote monitoring device and (ii) comparing the entered access data against the third-party authorization data.

15. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the programmable processor updates the local authorization database periodically or based on a predetermined event or a combination of both.

16. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the programmable processor issues the activation signal to the remote monitoring device if the remote monitoring device is determined

to be authorized to access the medical monitoring service and refrains from issuing an activation signal if the remote monitoring device is determined to be unauthorized to access the medical monitoring service.

17. (Currently Amended) A portable medical monitoring device <u>configured to monitor one or more physiological aspects of a patient, the device</u> comprising:

a transceiver for communicating with a central unit;

a user interface for communicating with a user of the device; <u>and</u>

a programmable processor configured to perform operations comprising:

receive user input specifying user-specific information;

transmit the received user input to the central unit for third-party authorization based at least in part on the user-specific information; <u>and</u>

selectively provide the user with access to a monitoring service hosted at the central unit based on a result of the third-party authorization.

18. (Original) The device of claim 17 wherein the programmable processor further is configured to perform a format check on the received user input to determine whether the user input meets one or more predetermined criteria.

19. (Original) The device of claim 18 wherein the programmable processor is further configured to refrain from transmitting the received user input to the central station if the user input is determined not to meet one or more of the predetermined criteria.

20. (Original) The device of claim 19 wherein the programmable processor is further configured to deny access to the monitoring service if the user input is determined not to meet one or more of the predetermined criteria.

21. (Original) The device of claim 17 wherein the programmable processor provides access to the monitoring service if the device receives an activation signal from the central unit

and denies access to the monitoring service if the device fails to receive an activation signal from the central unit.

22. (New) A computer-based method for controlling access to a medical monitoring system, the method comprising:

receiving information indicating that a remote monitoring device seeks access to a monitoring service hosted by a central unit, the remote monitoring device configured to monitor one or more physiological aspects of a patient;

determining whether the remote monitoring device is authorized to access the monitoring service, the determination being based at least in part on authorization data received from a third-party source; and

based on a result of the determination, selectively issuing an activation signal to the remote monitoring device.

23. (New) A medical monitoring system centered at a central node, the medical monitoring system comprising:

one or more communications links configured to facilitate communications with a plurality of remote monitoring devices and one or more third-party authorization sources, the remote monitoring devices being configured to monitor one or more physiological aspects of a patient;

at least one programmable processor configured to perform operations comprising:

host a medical monitoring service, the medical monitoring service being implemented at least in part by one or more software processes;

receive information indicating that a remote monitoring device seeks access to the medical monitoring service;

determine, based at least in part on authorization data received from a third-party authorization source, whether the remote monitoring device is authorized to access the monitoring service; and

based on a result of the determination, selectively issue an activation signal to the remote monitoring device.